

adding alkoxysilane and/or silicic acid solution to a dispersion containing a flaky or scaly base and spherical silica particles, and

immobilizing said spherical silica particles on the surface of said said flaky or scaly base by hydrolyzing said alkoxysilane and/or gelling said silicic acid solution,

said flaky or scaly base having a thickness of about 1  $\mu\text{m}$  or less and is selected from the group consisting of mica, talc and platelet shaped silica[;],and said spherical silica particles [comprising] comprise  $\text{SiO}_2$  or a mixture of  $\text{SiO}_2$  with one or more of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$ ,  $\text{CeO}_2$  or  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ , said spherical silica particles being non-porous and having an average particle size of 0.05-3  $\mu\text{m}$  [and being immobilized on the surface of said flaky or scaly base by hydrolyzing said alkoxysilane and/or gelling said silicic acid solution],

wherein [and] the permittivity ( $\epsilon$ ) of said dispersion is in the following range[;]:

15 80

and the ion concentration (N) of the sum of cations and anions in said dispersion satisfies the following conditions[,]:

- (a)  $200 \text{ ppm} \leq N \leq 5 \cdot 10^4 \text{ ppm}$ , when  $\epsilon$  is 15,
- (b)  $3 \cdot 10^4 \text{ ppm} \leq N \leq 2 \cdot 10^5 \text{ ppm}$ , when  $\epsilon$  is 80, and
- (c) N is in a quadrilateral area formed by A (15, 200), B (15,

$5 \times 10^4$ ), C ( $80, 2 \times 10^5$ ) and D ( $80, 3 \times 10^4$ ) in the (X,Y) coordinate system with the X axis for the permittivity ( $\epsilon$ ) (-) and the Y axis for the ion concentration (N) (ppm), when  $15 \leq \epsilon \leq 80$ .

2. (Amended) A method of producing a flaky fine powder [which comprises] comprising:

(a) dispersing a flaky or scaly base having a thickness of about  $1 \mu\text{m}$  or less selected from the group consisting of mica, talc and platelet shaped silica[;], and spherical silica particles comprised of  $\text{SiO}_2$  or a mixture of  $\text{SiO}_2$  with one or more of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$ ,  $\text{CeO}_2$  or  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ , in a dispersion medium comprising an organic solvent and/or water, to adhere said spherical silica particles on the surface of said flaky or scaly base, [then] and

(b) adding alkoxysilane and/or silicic acid solution to the obtained dispersion,

said spherical silica particles being non-porous and having an average particle size of  $0.05\text{--}3 \mu\text{m}$  and immobilized on the surface of said flaky or scaly base by hydrolyzing said alkoxysilane and/or gelling said silicic acid solution, [and]

wherein the permittivity ( $\epsilon$ ) of said dispersion is in the following range[;]:

$$15 \leq \epsilon \leq 80$$

and the ion concentration (N) of the sum of cations and anions in

said dispersion satisfies the following conditions[,]:

- (a)  $200 \text{ ppm} \leq N \leq 5 \cdot 10^4 \text{ ppm}$ , when  $\epsilon$  is 15,
- (b)  $3 \cdot 10^4 \text{ ppm} \leq N \leq 2 \cdot 10^5 \text{ ppm}$ , when  $\epsilon$  is 80, and
- (c) N is in a quadrilateral area formed by A (15, 200), B (15,  $5 \cdot 10^4$ ), C (80,  $2 \cdot 10^5$ ) and D (80,  $3 \cdot 10^4$ ) in the (X,Y) coordinate system with the X axis for the permittivity ( $\epsilon$ ) (-) and the Y axis for the ion concentration (N) (ppm), when  $15 \leq \epsilon \leq 80$ .

5. (Amended) A method of producing a flaky fine powder [which comprises] comprising:

dispersing (a) a flaky or scaly base having a thickness of about 1  $\mu\text{m}$  or less selected from the group consisting of mica, talc and platelet shaped silica[;], and (b) spherical silica particles comprised of  $\text{SiO}_2$  or a mixture of  $\text{SiO}_2$  with one or more of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$ ,  $\text{CeO}_2$  or  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ , in a dispersion medium, [whereby] said spherical silica particles being non-porous and having an average particle size of 0.05-3  $\mu\text{m}$ ,

said spherical silica particles being [are] deposited on a surface of said flaky or scaly base in said dispersion medium, and a flaky, fine powder [is] being obtained by filtering, washing and drying the obtained dispersion, [and]

wherein the permittivity (  $\epsilon$  ) of said dispersion is in the following range:

$$15 \leq \epsilon \leq 80$$

and the ion concentration (N) of the sum of cations and anions of said dispersion satisfies the following conditions,

$200 \text{ ppm} \leq N \leq 5 \times 10^4 \text{ ppm}$ , when  $\epsilon$  is 15,

$3 \times 10^4 \text{ ppm} \leq N \leq 2 \times 10^5 \text{ ppm}$ , when  $\epsilon$  is 80, and

N is in a quadrilateral area formed by A (15, 200), B (15,  $5 \times 10^4$ ), C (80,  $2 \times 10^5$ ) and D (80,  $3 \times 10^4$ ) in the (X,Y) coordinate system with the X axis for the permittivity ( $\epsilon$ ) (-) and the Y axis for the ion concentration (N) (ppm), when  $15 \leq \epsilon \leq 80$ .

6. (Amended) The method according to claim 5, further comprising immobilizing said spherical silica particles on the surface of said flaky or scaly base by adding [a sufficient quantity of] alkoxysilane and/or silicic acid solution to said dispersion.

7. (Amended) The method according to claim 5, further comprising immobilizing said spherical silica particles on said surface of said flaky or scaly base by adding [a sufficient quantity of] alkoxysilane to said dispersion and hydrolysing said alkoxysilane.

9. (Amended) The method according to claim 5, further comprising immobilizing said spherical silica particles on the surface of said flaky or scaly base by adding [a sufficient quantity of] silicic acid solution to said dispersion, and

gelling said solution.

23. (Amended) A method of producing a flaky fine powder [having improved light scattering properties, which comprises] comprising:

hydrolyzing tetraethoxysilane in a dispersion containing mica flakes [each] having a thickness of about 1 $\mu$ m or less, to thereby precipitate, <sup>the mica</sup> and immobilize <sup>the said silica</sup> on the surface of said mica flakes non-porous spherical silica particles having an average particle size of 0.05-3 $\mu$ m, [and]

wherein the permittivity  $\epsilon$  of said dispersion is in the following range;

$$15 \leq \epsilon \leq 80$$

and the ion concentration (N) of the sum of cations and anions in said dispersion satisfies the following conditions,

- (a)  $200 \text{ ppm} \leq N \leq 5 \cdot 10^4 \text{ ppm}$ , when  $\epsilon$  is 15,
- (b)  $3 \cdot 10^4 \text{ ppm} \leq N \leq 2 \cdot 10^5 \text{ ppm}$ , when  $\epsilon$  is 80, and